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CLAIMS:

1. A fertilizer composition comprising malt extract or spent grain liquor as herein defined with the proviso that
5 lime is not included in said composition.
2. A fertilizer composition according to claim 1, wherein the malt extract or spent grain liquor comprises cations, free amino nitrogen, glucans, carbohydrates, sugars, amino
10 acid peptides, and polyphenols.
3. A fertilizer composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the malt extract or spent grain liquor is a by-product of a brewing process.
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4. A fertilizer composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the malt extract or spent grain liquor is a by-product of beer brewing.
- 20 5. A fertilizer composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the composition comprises both soluble and insoluble material.
- 25 6. A fertilizer composition according to claim 5, wherein the soluble material comprises one or more of simple sugars, free amino nitrogen, glucans, vitamins and calcines.
- 30 7. A fertilizer composition according to claim 6, wherein the free amino nitrogen is protein.
8. A fertilizer composition according to claim 5, wherein the insoluble material comprises proteins and/or carbohydrates.
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9. A fertilizer composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the composition is either a liquid or a

solid.

10. A fertilizer composition according to claim 9, wherein the solid is a dry powder.

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11. A fertilizer composition according to claim 9 or claim 10, further comprising one or more bacteria and/or yeast.

10 12. A fertilizer according to claim 11, wherein the bacteria are a mixture of organisms selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus* spp, *Pseudomonas* spp, *Azotobacter* spp, *Nitrobacter* spp, *Azospirillum* spp, and *Derxia* spp.

15 13. A fertilizer composition according to any one of claims 9 to 12, further comprising yeast extract and/or a yeast cell wall preparation.

20 14. A method of improving plant growth, comprising the step of applying to said plant an effective amount of a fertilizer composition according to any one of claims 1 to 13.

25 15. A method of improving soil condition, comprising the step of applying to said soil an effective amount of a fertilizer composition according to any one of claims 1 to 13.

30 16. A method of preventing or inhibiting fungal growth, comprising the step of applying to soil or plants an effective amount of a fertilizer composition according to any one of claims 1 to 13.

35 17. A method according to any one of claims 14 to 16, wherein the composition is applied by spray or mechanical spreader.

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18. A method of manufacturing a fertilizer composition according to claim 1 comprising the step of extracting spent grain liquor or malt extract from a brewing process.
- 5 19. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step drying said composition.

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